



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

# PATENT APPLICATION EXAMINING OPERATIONS

Applicant: Brian DONOVAN

### Group Art Unit:

2783

Serial Nº: 09/410,202

Examiner:

Filed: Sept. 30, 1999

# Title: ZERO OVERHEAD COMPUTER INTERRUPTS WITH TASK SWITCHING

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1600 ODS Tower  
601 SW Second Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204-3157  
August 21, 2000

Assistant Commissioner  
of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

**Please add the following claims.**

4. In a data processing system, an interrupt and task change processing circuit comprising:

(a) a task enable circuit for determining from predetermined inputs whether a predetermined task is ready for execution by a central processing unit, (b) a task priority selection circuit for determining an order for the running of tasks that have been determined ready for execution by the task enable circuit; and

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